

**State of Louisiana**  
**Department of Public Safety and Corrections**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**National Crime Victims' Rights Week Observed April 13-19**

(Baton Rouge) National Crime Victims' Rights Week, an annual observance that calls attention to the experiences, needs and rights of crime victims and the responsibility of the justice system to respond appropriately, will be observed April 13 – 19, 2008 with events and activities across Louisiana and the United States.

Employees of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections – Corrections Services (DOC) are usually thought of as the “inmate people.” We are. And much more: We also serve the victims and survivors of crimes committed by inmates sentenced to state custody. And DOC has chosen National Crime Victims' Rights Week to call attention to some of the programs and services available to crime victims in Louisiana.

The Crime Victims Services Bureau coordinates the Department's victim registration and notification activities.

- Victims, survivors, and others directly impacted by the actions of a person sentenced to state custody can be formally notified about an offender's projected release dates, assignment to work release, escape and recapture, release from institutional custody, and other similar events.

- To be notified one must register with the Crime Victims Services Bureau directly or through A DOC institution or a probation and parole office.

- Being registered locally with LAVNS (Louisiana Automated Victim Notification System) is not enough. The registration does not presently transfer to DOC.

DOC also offers Victim-Offender Dialogue, a program enabling victims of crime or their survivors to request and prepare gradually over a period of time for the possibility of a direct meeting with the offender who harmed them.

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The DOC's Division of Probation and Parole boasts the longest history of direct service to crime victims. Officers have always been the ones to locate and interview victims and include their experiences and losses in reports prepared for justice system decision-makers. Officers help the courts and the Parole Board verify and set restitution and oversee its payment. Officers notify victims of parole hearings and inform victims about the possibility of registering for notification.

The Crime Victim Reparations board, supported administratively by staff of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, offers financial assistance to victims of crimes of violence for unrecovered losses linked to the crime. This is true even when a perpetrator has not been identified. Every sheriff's office designates someone to answer questions about reparations and help victims file their claims.

The Office of State Police maintains the Louisiana Sex Offender and Child Predator Registry, which appears on-line at [www.lasocpr.lsp.org](http://www.lasocpr.lsp.org). The site includes provisions of law that govern sex offenders as well as photographs and location information about registered sex offenders.

For additional information regarding services for crime victims, go to the DOC website: [www.doc.louisiana.gov](http://www.doc.louisiana.gov).

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